



ENTERTAINMENT

BROADWAY BOUND REPORT

by Garland Lee Thompson
"LADY DAY AT THE EMERSON BAR AND GRILL" OPENING AT THE CIVIC THEATRE

A one-woman show about the life and time of Billie "Lady Day" Holiday is coming soon to the Portland Civic Theatre's Blue Room. The musical piece is directed by Gary O'Brien and features Jeanette Russell Brown as "Lady Day," and Billy Larkin on piano.

This will mark the first time that the Portland Civic Theatre, one of the oldest community theatres in Portland, has ever presented a piece dealing with African American life and music in the smaller theatre-the-round space at the Civic.

"Lady Day at the Emerson Bar and Grill," ran very successfully in New York within the past two or three years and received favorable reviews. For further information and play dates, contact the Civic Theatre box office.

METROPOLITAN ARTS COMMISSION REACHES OUT INTO THE COMMUNITY

In what was billed as "A partly business, partly social gathering," took place on Sunday after, October 15, 1989, at the lovely home of Chris Poole, who is a Metropolitan Arts Commissioner. Ms. Poole, who also in on staff at the main office of the Portland Public School, is taking an increasingly more active role in the cultural and arts affairs regarding the African-American and minority community of the City of Portland.

The informal exchange of ideas was chaired partly, by Barbara Schaffer Bacon, of the Arts Extension Service, a division of Continuing Education at the University of Massachusetts, who is helping the Arts Commission to develop technical assistance services for professional and administrative development of non-profit arts organizations in the city.

The pleasant and interesting gathering, which was attended by Bill Bullick, the new director of the Metropolitan Arts Commission, Michael Grice, an Oregon Arts Commissioner, Donna Milrany, of the MAC staff, Chisao Hata, managing director of the American Dance Theatre and School, this writer and members of the Hispanic and African-American community.

IS ANYTHING GOING TO COME OUT OF THIS?

We were told yes, that specific strategies to implement over the next three years would be developed as a result of a new grant from the Local Program, directed by Richard Huff of the National Endowment of the Arts. This new NEA program has been recently forming in

the last two years, that has a budget of about two to three million dollars nationally.

Michael Grice, who also works for the Portland Public Schools, and has been active in arts and education for a number of years in Portland, was presented at the gathering, with a copy of the new writers anthology of the Northwest African-American Writer's Workshop; entitled "Voices of Kuumba." This historical newly published works of local black poets, fiction writers and playwrights, is one of the first of its kind to be published in the state of Oregon, under a grant by the Metropolitan Arts Commission and printed by the Portland Public School. Write on, African-American Writers Workshop, PPS and MAC.

THE STOREFRONT THEATRE OPENS ITS SECOND PLAY OF SEASON BY STEPHEN DIETZ

Another first for the Storefront Theatre, under its new managing director, Richard Yarnell, starts previews at the Winnistad Theatre, Saturday, 7:30 P.M., October 28, 1989 of Stephen Dietz's play, "Ten November," a Northwest premiere piece with music and lyrics by Eric Bain Peltoniemi.

This new work, billed as "a haunting lyrical assembly of story and songs within the backdrop of the sinking of the ship, S.S. Edmund Fitzgerald, that was lost in the gales of a storm on Lake Superior, November, 11, 1975.

The play runs through November 25, 1989, and plays Thursday, Friday, Saturday, at 7:30 P.M., and Sunday matinee at 2 P.M. or for some performance, 7 P.M. For further information, call the Storefront Theatre box office, 224-4001 or 224-4496. A special student \$5.00 discount ticket will be available at each performance, and preview tickets are \$10.00, before the official opening date of Wednesday, November 1, 1989.

"WOZA ALBERT" PLAYS ITS LAST PERFORMANCES AT STOREFRONT'S BURNSIDE THEATRE SPACE

The powerful South African anti-apartheid play, "Woza Albert," plays its regularly scheduled final performances at the Storefront Theatre's Third and Burnside space this weekend, before it changes to a different and non-regular schedule. See Rick Jones and Anthony Armstrong in this exciting play of fifty or more characters, which they play during the performance. For information, times and schedule, calls 224-4001 or 224-4496.

BEHIND-THE-SCENES

Jasmine Changes Gears For New Role In "Harlem Nights": "I had a ball. It was a good part for me," Jasmine Guy says of the sex bomb role she plays in the upcoming "Harlem Nights" which stars Eddie Murphy and Richard Pryor. "She's a manipulative, conniving criminal--mistress of the malioso gangster, but lovable and vulnerable--all of those things wrapped in one." In fact, Guy's first major dramatic role is as Eddie Murphy's love interest? "I'm his lust interest," Guy corrects. "I don't think there's any love in it." Nonetheless, the role,--a plum for Guy, shows the actress in a whole new light. The film is set to premiere sometime in mid-November.

Cheryl Lynn Launches Comeback: Nearly ten years has passed since Cheryl Lynn skyrocketed onto the recording scene back in 1978 after winning "The Gong Show," with a number one single, "Got To Be Real" and a subsequent remake of "If This World Were Mine," opposite Luther Vandross. At a recent Hollywood showcase, the question in the minds of most in the SRO crowd at LA's Roxy Theatre, was not so much what has she been doing with herself, but where did she learn to move like that? Indeed, the artist who while losing over 80 pounds (over the last four months), is still quite round, thrilled the overflow audience of mostly record executives with her (self-taught) fancy steps and moves, as part of a five-city promotional tour marking the release of her single, "Everytime I Try To Say Goodbye." The weight, the moves, the witty stage confidence are all part of a new Cheryl Lynn who has learned the importance of image. The talented and single vocalist, who is now in her thirties, hopes to shed an additional forty pounds before the year is up.

On The Home Front: Actress Peggy Lipton (of "Mod Squad" fame for those of you who will remember), filed for divorce from producer Quincy Jones after 15 years of marriage. The couple had been separated for some time ... Meanwhile the bookwriting chapter on growing up in the Jackson's household has just been closed for LaToya Jackson. A spokesperson for Putnam Publishing, who had been excited about the project, had this summer expressed the company's famed household. The second draft, it would appear, again fizzled instead of sizzled, and word has it Putnam has scrapped its plans for the book. Of course, all this should come as good news to brother Michael who earlier this year offered to pay LaToya not to write it.

Jesse Jackson Set For TV Debut: You'll get to know Rev. Jesse Jackson a lot more personally next fall, if plans go through for Jackson to host a weekly-syndicated talk show with Warner Brothers. Quincy Jones will serve as executive producer on the show tentatively titled "Voices Of America With Jesse Jackson." The show's format will revolve around Jackson's ability to debate a wide range of controversial topics with world leaders and prominent figures. A pilot has been set for taping within the next few weeks, while marketing is presently underway. **Short Takes:** Lionel Richie recently underwent surgery to have some nodes removed but according to our reports, all went well with the procedure ... Our sympathies to Marilyn McCoo on the recent loss of her mother, Dr. Mary H. McCoo who died in Los Angeles of a heart attack ... Famed dancer-choreographer Alvin Alley resigned his professorship at City University in New York after flap over his having paid others to fill in for him in the \$80,000 a year position ... And Levar Burton fans will be happy to know that Star Trek execs have decided to beef up Burton's role in the series. In fact, it was revealed that Burton had been the most underexposed of the cast ... **Next week: The race is cap the lead in HBO's upcoming Josephine Baker telepic.**

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MILLENNIUM

On The Money

The deal is done! Bertram Lee and Peter Bynoe officially closed the deal with the Denver Nuggets. However, the two businessmen cast in a bid to become the first blacks to own a major sports team, have instead become the first blacks to become managing general partners in a major sports franchise. This, according to insiders, is due to the fact that the two could not come up with the financing necessary to meet the purchase price of \$65 million. A new pact was reached when they entered into a deal to jointly purchase the team with Robert Wussler, president of Comsat Video Enterprises (a distributor of satellite programming) for \$54 million. Under the new terms, Lee and Bynoe will oversee day-to-day operations, with a 37.5% stake in the team. Comsat will own 62.5% of the franchise. While the sale must still meet with NBA Board of Governors approval, Commissioner David Stern said the NBA would be enhanced by a team whose management was in the hands of black businessmen.

Money Was Primary Motivation For Miss America: "It's not just a beauty pageant. We like to say it's a scholarship program and a lot of people don't like to believe it, but I won \$4,000 in scholarship monies," said 24-year old Debbye Turner, the third black to ever win the title of Miss America.

In Short: LA Laker star Magic Johnson has put his 7663 square foot Tudor-style, Bel-Air home on the market with a price tag of \$4.5 million. Johnson is purchasing another home--now under construction, in an even more posh section of Beverly Hills for close to \$7 million ... Bobby Seale, 52, who had been indicted in Cleveland for theft and bad checks, was granted a trial postponement until Nov. 20. This to afford him time enough to pay off the \$11,000 debt he incurred in obtaining porks ribs and chicken for hsteam in the National Rib Cook-off, where he sought to promote his book on barbecuing techniques ... Next week: A look at the nation's most successful black female entrepreneurs.

education has soared so that many universities are offering programs where parents of young children may pay now at a fraction of the cost it would be when their children graduate from high school.

Dressing LA's Prominent Blacks: For CJ's Elegance (established in 1969), business survival is a matter of good service and great taste. A boutique, located in a predominantly black section of Los Angeles, their clientele includes some of the most prominent and influential black women in the city, while also attracting the likes of Hollywood actresses Roxie Roker, Loni Anderson and Barbara Parkins. Shaw's clothing collection features the work of some of American's top designers, with prices ranging from \$165 to \$2000. The one-of-a-kind boutique (which has a Dunn & Bradstreet rating and has been dubbed "a mini-Saks"), is owned and operated by Orlean Dubuclet and her daughter, Carolyn Jo Shaw who has managed to keep some of LA's black uppercrust shopping in the community with a combination of the latest fashion trends, on-site fashion shows and previews, alterations, wardrobe consultation, and custom gift shopping for men. Said Shaw: "I think what's really important in servicing people is that you make them feel important". So successful are Dubuclet and shaw, who holds a BA in merchandizing, that future plans include opening stores in Houston and Atlanta.

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The Urban League Guild affiliated with the Urban League of Portland has scheduled their introductory tea. The public is invited to attend the tea which is to be held Sunday November 5th from 1:00-5:00 p.m. at the home of E. Shelton and Heloise Hill 7005 N.E. 29th. The auxiliary known as the Urban League Guild has been an integral part of the National Urban League and its local affiliates since 1946. The guild was established to act as a public relations link to enhance the local affiliates in program implementation and financial support. There are more than seventy (70) Guilds who are members of the National Council of Urban League Guilds. All events and membership to the Guild is open to both men and women. If you'd like more information about the Guild or the introductory tea, please stop by the local Urban League office or call them at 280-2600. "Join us as we help the Urban League in being a friend to the community."